

EX-KKK CHIEF JAILED 5-1 9/10/69

Trio Held as Death Plot Against Evers Is Probed

FAYETTE, Miss. (AP) — Three men, one identified as a former top officer of two Ku Klux Klan organizations, were in custody today as authorities investigated a reported assassination plot against Fayette Negro Mayor Charles Evers.

Dale Walton, 44, a Tupelo merchant, was arrested by Fayette police last night after officers staked out Evers' office following a telephone tip that an attempt was planned on the civil rights leader's life. He was charged with speeding and carrying concealed weapons after a search of his automobile turned up two shotguns, a rifle, a carbine and a .38-caliber pistol.

In nearby Natchez, authorities said Bobby Haywood, 18, of Nettleton was arrested in a motel room registered to Walton. Officers said he had a .45-caliber submachine gun and was held at the request of federal Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms Division agents.

AND, IN Hattiesburg, Pat Massengale, 50, was arrested at his home by ATF agents and lodged in the Forrest County jail. Walter Kelly, ATF acting chief special in-

vestigator, said Massengale was taken into custody in connection with the submachine gun found in Haywood's pos-

WEDNESDAY

Evers--

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session.

Walton, who was a civilian colonel on the staff of Gov. Ross Barnett, is the admitted founder and former imperial wizard of the Knights of the Green Forest, a splinter Ku Klux Klan organization which authorities said ceased operations in 1966. He also is a former exalted cyclops of the United Klans of America.

Massengale was charged in 1968 with obstructing justice in an alleged attempt to tamper with a jury called to hear the murder trial of William Thomas Smith, accused of killing Hattiesburg Negro leader Vernon F. Dahmer.

Massengale was tried under the indictment, but the case ended in a mistrial when the jury reported it was hopelessly deadlocked. The case has not been retried.

EVERS SAID he summoned officers after he received a telephone tip that three men were going to kill him.

"I often get these calls and don't pay much attention to them," Evers said. "But the last call made more sense than most. The lady identified the car . . . and said it was full of guns and they had been hired to kill me."

When the car later passed his office, he said, "I just threw up my hand and the police stopped them."

EVERS REPORTED the

arresting officers asked Walton why he had the weapons in his car and he replied, "None of your business."

Walton probably will receive a hearing in Mayor's Court tomorrow, Evers said.

Fayette Police Chief Robert Vanderson said Walton had been reported in the area for several days and had been seen in the County Park, site of a marble monument commemorating Evers' brother Medgar, a state Negro leader who was the victim of an assassin's bullets.